



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

WHEREAS: Victims, including the most vulnerable members our society, are touched by violent crimes that occur every day. Thousands of Georgians become victims of crime each year. These victims may suffer emotional, physical, psychological, and financial hardships as a result of their victimization. Victim assistance and compensation programs nationwide provide vital services that help individuals, families, and communities cope with the impact of crime; and

WHEREAS: The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), passed by Congress in 1984, affirmed a national commitment to helping victims rebuild their lives by establishing the Crime Victims Fund, a major source of funding for services and compensation to victims of crime across the United States. The Crime Victims Fund is comprised of fines and penalties levied on offenders, and it affirms the principle that those who commit crimes should be held accountable for their actions. National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity for our country to recognize the VOCA as a major step forward in providing support for victim services and reaffirming our nation's commitment to addressing the needs of victims of crime; and

WHEREAS: All Georgians are asked to remember the victims who have suffered at the hands of criminals in this state. Victims have a voice in Georgia, and we must recognize their importance to the criminal justice system. We should also recognize and support those who selflessly provide assistance to crime victims through their extensive efforts in aiding those most affected by criminal activity. In the State of Georgia, more than three decades of progress for crime victims comes as a result of dedicated state personnel, victim advocates, law enforcement, service providers, and brave victims who overcame adversity in order to regain their voice and respect; and

WHEREAS: It is vital that we work collaboratively to ensure that victims are treated with dignity and compassion. As such, the Administrative Office of the Courts, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Department of Corrections, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Public Safety, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Georgia Commission on Family Violence, Governor's Office of Highway Safety, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council, and the State Board of Pardons and Paroles are working alongside with victim services programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout Georgia and the nation to observe Crime Victims' Rights Week; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2-8, 2017, as CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK in Georgia and encourage all citizens to reaffirm our commitment to helping victims of crime rebuild their lives.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF